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Issue 479

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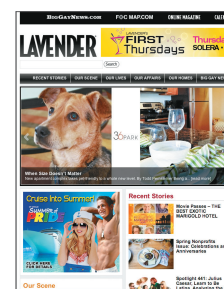
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A glitzy rainbow cover for the winners of the 2013 Lavender Community Awards. Read about them starting on page 34.



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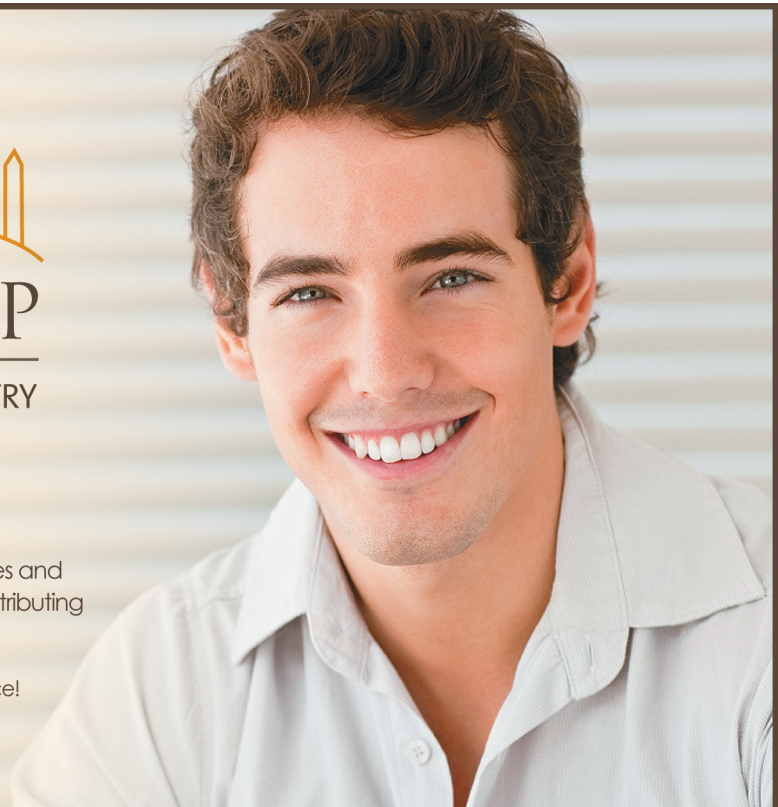
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Lessons Learned from Leaders

This might be my favorite issue of each year. It's a bit like sending out presents by email when I notify people that they have been chosen by readers to receive awards. There are stages to it: disbelief, happiness, pride, tears...someone even tried to talk me out of one. The nominations don't lie. They come from you and you write them with both heart and logic. I learn so much from the nominations—there are so many people out there that need some spotlight. And, there are so many causes out there that require attention. This community is diverse and active and we need to keep showing as much of it to you as we can.

In a conversation with one of the recipients, I read the nomination over the phone and found myself with tears in my eyes and goosebumps on my arms. What people do in this community matters. What people do for each other—with no expectation of recognition or recompense—matters. This community matters.

When I read the stories of these people and their organizations, it became more clear why there is such a thing as Lavender. There are reasons for this community to have its space, its conversations, its spotlight and attention, just as there are reasons for corporations to have GLBT employee groups, for organizations to have missions that benefit this community, and for people to volunteer and give and grow. The reasons are many, but my own experience boils the reasons down to learning and teaching.

How do we learn and teach? By telling. By writing. By being out there. By being seen. By having conversations. We know this. But, we need to have conversations with ourselves. Learning how we are similar and how we are different is part of how this community can become less splintered and more empathetic from within. Much of our efforts were focused outward these past few years with having conversations with the straight community about why the gays and lesbians of the whole rainbow community should be allowed equal marriage rights. We took the time to show and tell people who aren't familiar with the community about why love matters, how rights affect everyone, and that this community always has been—and always will be—a real group of people that fits into the larger society.

Have you noticed how we can benefit from talking to each other



about ourselves, too? Having a greater understanding means having a greater ability to help more people and to advance more of this community together.

Many of the award recipients participated in the past year's fight against the marriage amendment as well as the campaign for marriage equality. But that's not all. These people are involved in numerous issues all at once. Some have been working for years and years to help those with HIV and AIDS. People work toward inclusion and against inequality. Youth homelessness and strengthening families matter. The environment and working between different cultures are key to our collective survival. Being family for each other and being around to socialize or "just talk" is crucial to the well-being of many. Figuring out how to not make our aging community members go back into the closet as they get older

is important for all of us. Shattering stereotypes and opening doors. Being trailblazers and using power for good and not evil. Fighting for our country, fighting for our rights. Creating space for ambiguity while also defining space for each other. Being ambassadors and bridging gaps between this community and the cities, the state, the nation, the world.

Look to these people and see what I see: role models.

Similarities. Differences. Progress.

Together.

With thanks, 

Andy

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It Needs To Get EVEN Better

Same-sex marriage is legal in Minnesota; DOMA is dead. I like to think that things are getting better. And they are, but the good is relentlessly pursued by the bad, the light by darkness.

Recently, the NYPD charged a 22-year-old Bronx man with second-degree murder as a hate crime after he repeatedly stabbed his 69-year old victim thinking the man was gay.

In Porterville, California, the Mayor and Vice Mayor were stripped of their titles over a proclamation to designate June as GLBT Pride month. The two remain active members, but the action is indicative of the furor that can be generated by all things gay.

Pauls Tutonghi's *Salon.com* article concerned Jadin Bell, the La Grande Oregon, fifteen-year-old who, after being bullied for months with no intercession by school authorities, hanged himself last January. Jadin lingered five days then was taken off life support.

Jadin's father, Joe Bell, told Tutonghi that three different congregations refused to host fundraisers to defray medical bills, while a friend recalled that when attending church with Jadin the pastor declared, "If you're here, now, and you're gay, you need to come up to

the altar and repent your sins."

Visiting La Grande High, Tutonghi wrote, "I was struck by the physical loneliness ... There was nothing near the building other than a few homes and, beyond the residential neighborhood, a Congregational church." Joe Bell identified a large truck as one used by Jadin's tormentors: "They'd chase him and scream insults at him from the cab."

"I had a brief flash of what Jadin must have felt," said Tutonghi. "Because it would be terrifying—that giant machine pursuing you—the kids inside of it calling you a faggot, its engine roaring like an implacable beast, nobody there to intervene. If there was physically nowhere for Jadin to go—no buildings other than the school itself and the homes around it—where could he be safe? Where could he find shelter?"

"When they finally did suspend one of the main bullies in Jadin's case," Tutonghi concluded, it was three weeks after Jadin's death—when the bully had started harassing someone else."

It will continue to get better, but only if we remain mindful of the many still left behind, and work for change. □

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Cruise Winner Jimmy Burnett and Brian Van Wey. Photo by Hubert Bonnet

Continued on page 69 ➔

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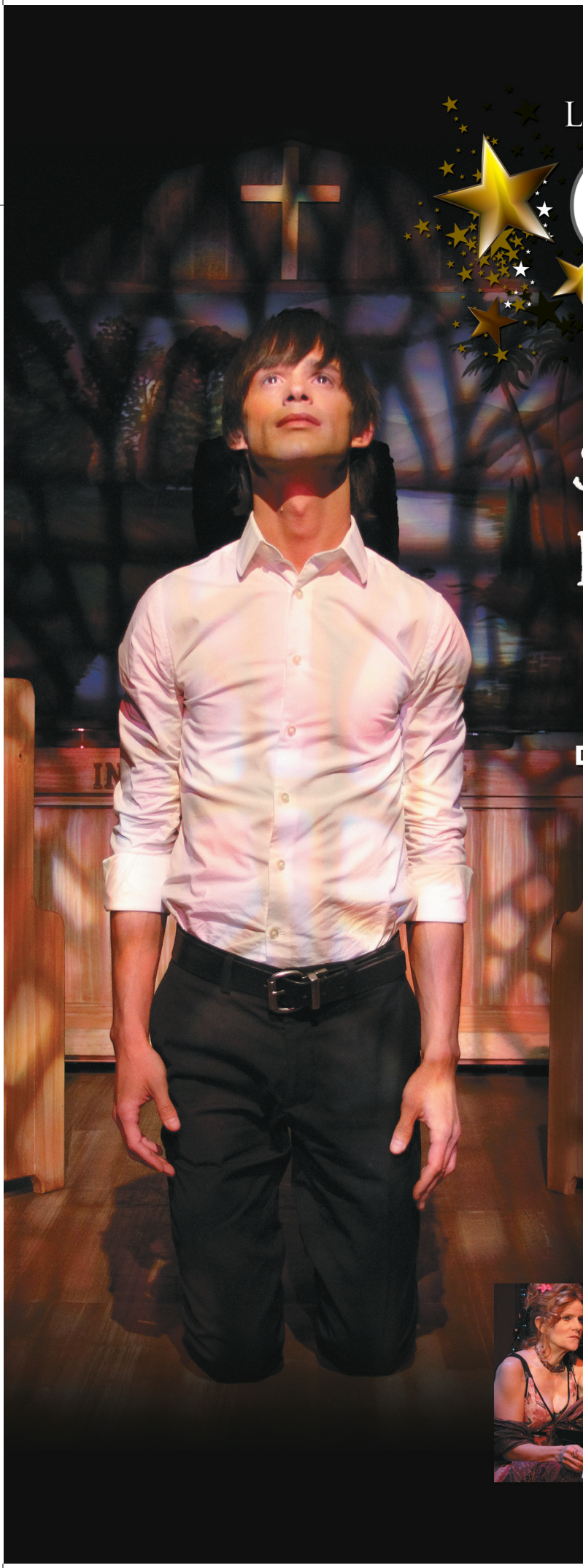
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Carrie. Photo by Laurie Etchen

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It's taken a while but the 1998 stage musical version of *Carrie* that was met with a bizarre combination of derision and delight has finally transformed into a unified success thanks to the 2012 Off-Broadway revival that began with a reading of the revised script and score in 2009. Now Minneapolis Musical Theatre and Hennepin Theatre Trust give us the area premiere featuring Jill Iverson in the title role.

MMT Artistic Director Steven Meerdink relates: "The original composers, Michael Gore and Dean Pitchford, and the original writer, Lawrence D. Cohen, were engaged by director Stafford Arima to revise the script and score. Seven of the original songs were removed or replaced and the script was revamped to a modern setting and lifted more images from the original Stephen King novel. From what I can determine, the biggest issue with the original Broadway show is that it tried to be a BIG Broadway musical full of production numbers. The Off-Broadway revival scaled the cast back to a total of 14 and turned the focus on the characters and relationships. And, in changing the setting to the present, the show's focus on bullying becomes even more relevant. I think the show needed to be 'smaller' and this is what was accomplished in

the Off-Broadway revival."

Meerdink concludes, "This particular production is going to fit into the New Century Theatre space very well as it will keep the audience close to the action and, hopefully, make the audience feel more involved in the actual turmoil Carrie White deals with on a daily basis." (It should also be noted that MMT is often masterful at shaping ambitious musicals into smaller spaces. They're one of the best.)

DISENCHANTED!

Through Oct. 13

345 – 13th Av. NE, Mpls.

(612) 436-1129

www.ritz-theater.org

Subtitled *A New Musical that Gives Fairy Tales the Bird!* by Dennis T. Giacino, here's a fun and irreverent way to reflect on those stories you were told as a kid and

consider how they may have shaped or misshaped your world view and your expectations. Not that there's anything wrong with 'happily ever after,' but you sometimes want more scope into just what happiness is for you. Co-producer Jim Detmar says, "There's a song in the show called 'Without the Guy.' It is sung by Mulan (Pegah Khadkodaian) and in it she mulls the distinct possibility that she might be a lesbian since Disney has written no prince to save her, provide for her, or fight her battles. It's a very clever song."

FOOL FOR LOVE

Through Oct. 20

Jungle Theater,

2951 Lyndale Av. S., Mpls.

(612) 822-7063

www.jungletheater.com

For years, Jennifer Blagen has distinguished herself as a top-tier



Fool For Love. Photo by Michal Daniel

Twin Cities actress, but with *Fool For Love* she makes a gripping artistic breakthrough as May, a volatile woman who can't quit a man she's loved since adolescence for reasons you'll understand when you see the Jungle's marvelous revival of Sam Shepard's now classic dark comedy directed by Bain Boehlke. Blagen tends to play classically poised characters and she plays them well. With May, however, she lets loose libidinal power that almost knocks you over.

The one May can't quit is cowboy Eddie, played with equally libidinous impact by Terry Hempleman. For those who know and appreciate Hempleman's work, you know there's no actor around who can top him for mischievousness in characterization. He'll have you grinning ear to ear throughout as he thrusts and mistrusts Eddie's machismo at May and his naive rival, Martin, played with fitting innocence by Jason Peterson.

Anymore, most people think of Shepard as the superb gritty character actor of exceptional films like *Fair Game*, *Black Hawk Down*, *Days of Heaven*, and *Mud*. However, he is arguably the finest American playwright of his generation. Sam Shepard plays reveal white Americans in western states at emotional odds with changing landscapes -geographical, interpersonal, and emotional. (This conflict is emanated by Eddie and an aging curmudgeon character played effectively by Allen Hamilton.) A gift that Shepard brings to the party is his searing insight into the collapse of the myth of the American West in the 20th century – a myth that still tries to revivify itself through the gun lobby and various gangs -white and nonwhite-wreaking havoc with drugs and weapons trade in western states and Mexico.

These are not the subjects of *Fool For Love* but the disintegration that *Fool For Love* taps into prefigures the wacky unbridled machismo we see so much of nowadays, whether it be mindless

gun toters who rail against the government and 'illegals' but still want their Social Security checks, expanded military adventurism, and sanctioned unwarranted wiretaps, or the seething, darkly comic John McCain always on the verge of blowing a gasket because we haven't entered yet another war since Bush/Cheney left office. Though masculinity can be a magnificently beautiful thing when manifested with dignity and goodness, it can sunder the fabric of relationships and social progress when it turns toxic and fixates on chronic unforgiveness. Shepard continually cautions us about this. It's too bad that as many men who know his movies don't know his plays.

MISS SAIGON

Oct. 8 – 13

Ordway Center, 345 Washington St., St. Paul

(651) 224-4222

www.ordway.org

This powerhouse musical is one of the most unfairly derided works of theater in the history of theater. For a couple of decades now, despite the fact that the show is still going, ardently misguided protesters, many of whom actually admit to having never seen the show, scream out about its alleged racism and misogyny. What's odd about this is that the same protesters conveniently overlook that the musical is a blistering indictment of American militarism run amok and the horrific effect that militarism has had on women, children, and noncaucasians. Yet it has been stunningly mischaracterized as a right wing musical! It points more to the pick-and-choose and to-hell-with-context attitude many on the American Left still haven't figured out. (We have seen this foolishness play out in the past few years with simplistic racially-correct attacks on *The Help* and *The Butler*, both of which are films to be reckoned with.)

Adding to the irony is that one of contemporary theater's most iconic of images is of the helicopter sweeping in, signifying profoundly the humbling American defeat in Indochina. Many a dandy has pooh-poohed the expense of having the helicopter as part of the set design. But it is in itself a tremendous work of visual art that matches up with the theatrical art to sublime effect.

Nothing in art more deftly symbolizes the vain waste of the Vietnam War. And for those on the right who bristle at the musical's stern critique of American militarism, *Miss Saigon* contains an amazing scene that underscores the dark side of North Vietnamese communism.

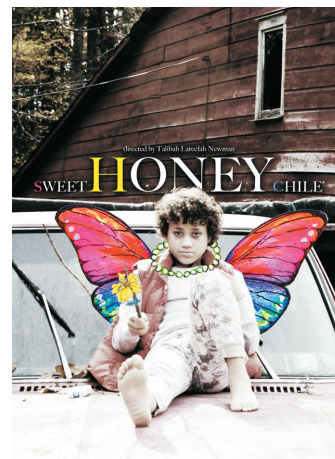
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This year's MUFF has three queer-themed films that you won't want to miss. Minneapolis's Lady Patra dazzles in *Dazzle – The Donny West Story*. It reflects on gender transition and doing drag in the 1970s. Talibah L. Newman's *Sweet Honey Chile* explores identity and grief through a child's eyes and was an Official Selection of the 2013 American Black Film Festival. *Welcome to New York* won the Best LGBT Comedy at the SENE Film Festival in Providence, Rhode Island. The St. Anthony Main venue has become an ideal space for film festivals and marks a healthy expansion of our



Sweet Honey Chile. Photo by Julie O

favorite local underground film fest. It's also great to see queer cinema represented along with other 'out-of-the-box' films. MUFF reminds us how we have become conditioned to the Hollywood/Wall Street Blockbuster Syndrome. Check it out and that in and of itself will be a peaceful way of 'raging against the machine!' ▣



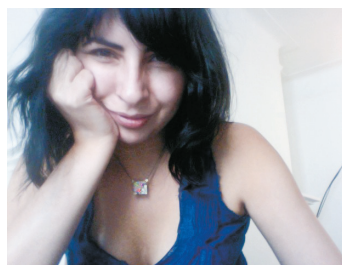
HINDU GODS GIVEN GENDER RE- ASSIGNMENT AND INTERSEX PRIDE AT MIXED BLOOD

Playwright Aditi Brennan Kapil has written an epic trilogy of three plays based on the trinity of Hindu male deities: Brahma the Creator, Vishnu the Sustainer, and Shiva the Destroyer. Though Hinduism is generally seen through American eyes as something primarily South Asian, *Displaced Hindu Gods* are Western plays set here and now in the US. Moreover, these gods, as re-imagined by Kapil, are no longer cisgender male.

The world premiere at Mixed Blood Theatre is an October marathon that runs on separate week nights and on weekends. *Brahman/i: A One-Hijra Stand-Up Comedy Show* is a standup comedy routine performed by Brahman, a South Asian Intersex person played by Debargo Sanyal, which Kapil says, “deals with self-creation, self-ownership, and creation of personal mythology. The Vishnu play, *The Chronicles of Kalki*, is a girl-gang thriller about a girl who may or may not be the final avatar of Vishnu come to save the world from demons and evil, and it deals with how we survive, what we as humans need to survive, and perhaps more specifically, how we survive puberty. The third is *Shiv*, the Shiva play, where I take on the psychological residue of post-colonialism, destroying one’s past in order to have a future. I’m an immigrant a couple of times over, and mythology, the need to re-mythologize when you’re not fitting into any of the categories in the world around you, is something that I think about a lot. Identity and displacement are recurring themes and these three plays have allowed me to delve into those ideas while also delving into the Indian side of my heritage more deeply than I have in the past.”

Kapil points out that her trilogy comes from the experience of not being Indian, “but of being an emigrated Indian, with all the displacement of identity, mythology, and cultural context that this brings. *The Chronicles of Kalki* has a particular gritty feminism going on that is likely to resonate with the bullying culture in our schools, with the causal misogyny that sometimes kicks in around puberty. The Shiva play probably carries a fair amount of the guilt I feel for growing away from my parents, for not inheriting their value system and world view, for becoming westernized. The Brahma play actually contains the most empowered character I think I’ve ever written – that’s probably where I’d like to be some day. Able to own all the pieces of myself in a spotlight with a mike, and have that be embraced.”

Sanyal adds, “My character, Brahman, has always possessed an innately funny and quirky and intelligent way of viewing his/her identity as an intersex person, even during the rough times. It is through this very unique lens that Brahman has been able to confront some very complex questions over the years and ultimately, to become quite confident and comfortable with his/her intersexuality. So, now, as a present-day stand-up comedian, Brahman is daring audiences to do the same and like any smart comic, Brahman is accomplishing



(Clockwise from top left) Playwright Aditi Brennan Kapil. Photo courtesy of Mixed Blood Theatre; *BRAHMAN/i*, *A One-Hijra Stand-Up Comedy Show*. Photo by Rich Ryan; *SHIV*. Photo by Rich Ryan.

this by making them laugh along to stories and anecdotes which will sneak up on them in surprisingly relatable ways.”

When Kapil is asked about why the deities in her trilogy are female and intersex instead of traditional cisgender depictions, she says “why not?” and reiterates that *Brahman/i* is intersex – a combination of both male and female which was once archaically and disparagingly referred to as hermaphrodite. Kapil says, “It’s all a question of who gets to tell the stories, right? Every artist creates through the lens of their own experience, and a diversity of artists will bring a diversity of experiences to the work that makes up our cultural discourse. Any play written by an Indian-Bulgarian-Swedish-American woman will by its nature de-westernize our cultural dialogue, and also, our gender discourse. For me, for how I engage with the world, it’d be a little crazy if my gods weren’t girls.”

Note: *Displaced Hindu Gods*, surprisingly, is one of the few theater works to emerge locally that addresses intersex. For those who will want to read further on that subject, check out the remarkable *Intersex and Identity: the Contested Self* by Dr. Sharon E. Preves.

Displaced Hindu Gods: A Trilogy of Plays by Aditi Brennan Kapil
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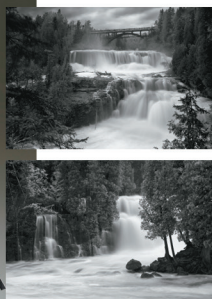
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Malmö, Sweden. Photo by Werner Nystrand

HOW SWEDE IT IS

For centuries Danes ruled Sweden with a hard hand. Indeed, Copenhagen's airport still serves as the arrival point for Western Sweden. But today, a new bridge then speeds visitors straight to the region, called Skane, where, jet lagged and weary, serenity awaited at Angavellen Farm, a countryside hotel-cum-restaurant creating a new future for Swedish food production by returning to pre-agribusiness days. Owner Rolf Axel Nordstrom, a city boy destined to join the family business, instead parted ways to follow his passion for animals, raised humanely, and organic foodstuffs. He bought the farm in 1971, explaining, "I've always been keen on what I eat: It must be raised with care, the old-style way. And it must be delicious."

Victory laps: The farm's restaurant, called "a living Utopia" by *Gourmet Magazine* and awarded Sweden's Best Restaurants diploma, delighted us with dinner produced entirely on the grounds,

from citrus cod with asparagus to smoked pork with beets and carrot puree. Sweet dreams are obligatory after dual desserts of strawberries with meringues and rhubarb shortcake. And for breakfast, organic fruit and eggs, cheese, sausages, ham, pate and loaves fresh from the oven. Guest rooms in modern Swedish mode anchor multitudes of forest paths, a pond, and pastures strewn with pigs and sheep. Only the lure of exploring nearby Malmö prevented us from demanding residency forever.

In the Sixties, Malmö was rampant with dirt, crime, and unemployment after its shipping and herring industries collapsed. Today, thanks in part to that new bridge, it's a vanguard of all things eco: green parks, sustainability. And, the new capitol of cool, with a young, creative, multi-culti population. The unstoppably trendy West Harbor boasts architect Frank Gehry's Turning Torso tower. Contemporary art beckons pro-

vocatively from the Moderna Museet, hosting an exhibit of Munch's works labeled (in red neon) "Scandinavian Pain." The city's Form & Design Center boasts the best of Sweden's designers: contempo furniture, toys too stylish to save for kids, quirky crocheted earrings.

Malmö's main square, complete with obligatory statue topped with obligatory pigeon, displays an architectural mélange segueing from sturdy Gothic brick to the soft pastels of Art Nouveau. The city's moated castle now hosts a complex of museums, bordered by an organic garden serving its outdoor café, where we gobbled mountains of shrimp. A boat tour in this canal-laced town passes under 22 bridges and aside a mammoth parking lot for bikes, the eco travel mode favored here.

Helsingborg beckoned next. First thing I see is, OMG, Hamlet's Castle, Elsinore, anchoring the Danish coast across the water. Second is the

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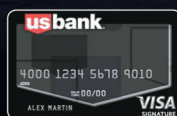
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sweeping boardwalk extending miles from city center, where swimmers brave the chilly waters as I promenade (I'm wearing long johns). Reaching into the harbor, a glassy restaurant called Silen & Makrillen (salmon & mackerel) honors its pledge of seafood supreme.

This is another town on the move, with a brand-new Culture House, home to art displays, concerts, a music school and a way-too-alluring gift shop. Climb to the town's 1865 castle for a view that's worth the aching knees, then prowl the streets below it, lined with half-timbered buildings from 400 years ago.

We follow the coastline to Sofiero, King Oscar and Queen Sofia's 1865 summer castle on the sea, surrounded by formal gardens and wild, woodland paths. Then it's into the countryside with a stop at the farmers' market hosted by Viken Tomater, which raises 83 varieties (who knew?) of tomatoes to try before you buy. We brake for lunch at Hoganas, once a pottery factory, where today a buffet is spread atop the former kilns: unending salads, breads, and, my choice, Swedish meatballs, followed by lacy Swedish pancakes topped with whipped cream and lingonberry sauce.

Braving the punishing wind, we stop at Kulaberg Nature Reserve at the entrance to the Baltic Sea, inviting folks to hike, bike, kayak, dive, and porpoise-watch, with 20 watery caves to explore. The cure for shivering is a Fika—a Swedish pastry break—where the sweethearts who run Flickorna Lundgren prove no slouches at the oven. Choose the vanilla hearts beloved by King Oscar, who ate ten at one go (my kind of man); chocolate hazelnut macaroons, the almond-vanilla cream Toscas. The entire café, inside and out, is filled with blue-eyed blonds of three generations, a demographic snapshot of the land.

The spa hotel Skansen in Bostad, refuge of the glitterati (Robert Kennedy fell in love here—albeit not with his wife; Richard Gere went skinny-dipping; Ingmar Bergman filmed its terrain) delivered dinner that day—a mountain of tiny shrimp followed by fillet of char, then raspberry sorbet, which we walked off on an endless seaside path. In the morning, as waves roughed up the shore, we stopped in the weaving studio launched by designer deluxe Marte Maas Fjeterstrom, whose carpets grace Manhattan's U.N. Building and floors of the rich and famous. Then, it's off to the farm of a local singer who, indeed, became rich and famous by defying her daddy's edict to get a real job—opera diva Birgit Nilsson. The stable, now a café, draws on her own recipes for Aida tart and Diva cake. The humble house, where her needlepoint sampler hangs over her tiny bed, is joined by a museum that unfolds her life story via displays and arias: "Wagner made me famous, but Puccini made me rich."

In the depths of a nearby forest, Stollaby Krog, a schoolhouse-turned-restaurant, all gleaming white, serves 30 for dinner, and opens at lunch "only for you and the Crown Princess of Sweden," joked the owner. From a forward, be-foamed menu, you'll discover dishes like cod cheek with celery root and beets; fish with nettles and seaweed; goat cheese cheesecake



(Clockwise from top left) The "fish church", fish market in Gothenberg; Pastries, a fika break at Flickorna Lundgren; Same; Swedish country side near Malmö. Photos by Carla Waldemar.

with rhubarb mousse. Or simply, flank steak with those perfect Swedish potatoes.

Best for last? Hard to say, for each day offered its own share of serendipities. We hop a train to Gothenburg, under the skies of blue and yellow sun, colors of the Swedish flag. Lush with green parks border meandering canals, where a boat tour requires passengers to squat for a low bridge, "or the cheese slicer will give you a Swedish haircut." It passes Seluhallen Food Market bursting with 40 shops, and another venue expressly for seafood, nicknamed the Fish Church. ("You can even get married here, provided you believe in Cod.") We glide by the chic new Opera House and muscular dry dock, readying ships to return to sea—past the old-time hospital built round, "so germs couldn't lurk in the corners," and a floating parking ramp.

Avenyn, the city's see-and-be-seen street, leads from the harbor to a concentration of its cultural musts: the Concert Hall, Rohsska Museum of Fashion & Design, and the Art Museum with its treasury of Nordic artists, aside the Hasselblad Center for Photographic Arts.

Gothenberg was chosen Sweden's Food Capi-

tol in 2012. And guess who helped put it on the map? Marcus Samuelsson, chef of our own dearly departed Aquavit. He recently opened his first restaurant in Sweden, here in his home town. It anchors the Clarion Post Hotel, grand as the former post office it once was, where we drooled over his Manhattan Meets Skane menu of shrimp salad supreme, with hardcooked egg and caviar. Or grab the cod Caesar or the surf 'n' turf of suckling pig and scallops. (He's also opened another café in Helsingborg's Clarion Hotel.)

Haga is the sweetheart of the city. The district originally held the working stiffs kicked out from the center when they couldn't afford brick houses, decreed to prevent fires. So they built humble wooden structures along cobbled streets that today house a shopper's mecca, featuring everything from iconic clogs to the town's best—and unquestionably largest—cinnamon bun. To collect your own stash, visit www.gothenburg.com, www.gothenburg.gaycities/en; www.malmocity.se, www.malmotown.com/en and www.visitskane.com. □



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Dining on the farm: Bring your own blanket, table and chairs, or find room in The Coop. Photos by Andy Lien



WISCONSIN'S PIZZA HARVEST

Fall food made with just-harvested vegetables on a farm is a delicacy. Though there are now a number of “pizza farms” near the Twin Cities that serve pizza made in outdoor ovens throughout the summer and into fall, I always choose to wait until fall to go to what I consider to be the original, AtoZ Produce and Bakery, just across the border in Wisconsin. I could just give curt instructions for getting your grub: Check the menu, place your order, watch for your number to be flipped to, and wait a matter of five minutes for your piping-hot pizza to be sliced and handed to you as you pay your bill. Find a place to eat and take your garbage with you. I’m a bit too wordy for that, though. Through the years, I’ve gathered a few more tips to share for making your own trip to the place



where pizza grows in country idyll.

Leave Early and Know How to Get There. AtoZ Produce and Bakery (aka, the “Pizza Farm”) is closest to Stockholm, Wisconsin. Every Tuesday they make pizzas from 4:30 to 8:00 at night which means that people can leave their 9-to-5 job, travel through rush hour traffic, and make it to the farm in time for pizza, but I’ve done it and I wouldn’t recommend it. If possible, leave a couple hours early and give yourself time to get through the East Metro with as little frazzle as possible. Depending upon your start point, the trip could take an hour or two. I usually take I-94 East through St. Paul to US-61 South, and the cross over to Wisconsin on US-10 East. Then, once across the river in Prescott,



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SLICE

Below - left: Three slices of three pies;
right: the new "bar" for beer and wine.
Photos by Andy Lien

Wisconsin, I immediately turn right onto WI-35 South, the Great River Road. Follow that famous road all the way to Stockholm and take in the scenery. Once you're in Stockholm, it's a good idea to either use a GPS or printed directions to the address of AtoZ Produce and Bakery. Those methods have never let me down and always bring me directly to the country road with the Liberal Catholic Church on it, which signifies that I'll be seeing the Pizza Farm next.

Pre-Order Your Pie and Plan for Ambling. Stockholm, the town closest to the Pizza Farm, is located on the Great River Road of Wisconsin. Low in population but high in charm, Stockholm has a variety shops and welcomes the GLBT community with open arms. I always visit the art and home gallery, Abode Stockholm, and get some coffee (while my friends pick and choose their beer) at Stockholm General, owned and operated by Alan Nugent and Steve Grams. Ingebrechtsen's has a charming store in a historic building and I also swoon over kitchen wares at The Palate. We called ahead to the Stockholm Pie Company and ordered two pies to pick up on our way to the Pizza Farm, a chocolate cream and a apple-berry cardamom crumble pie. You won't regret incorporating that step into your trip. Then, since the stores close around 5:00 but we didn't want to get to the farm until later, we went up the hill to Maiden Rock Winery and Cidery for apples, wine, and cheese. Find more information at www.stockholmwisconsin.com.

Pack as Much Ambience as You Want and Pick Where You Want It. You're going to have dinner on a farm. Some people choose to do it picnic-style and bring blankets to sit on with paper plates and plastic utensils, which is a fine way to enjoy your pizza supper. I've seen people bring a *diner en blanc* with them, wearing all-white clothing and dressing their table and chairs in white linen, all of which paint a romantic picture against the country setting in the twilight hours. We had a little drizzle this last time I was there, so we went directly to the one building with chairs and tables, The Coop, and found two tables that could be pushed together to accommodate our nine-person party and, though we weren't out under the stars, we very much enjoyed our dining experience in the warmly lit coop. These fall nights when the sun goes down early call for lighting, so bring your own flashlight or candles. Do not do as I did and carefully prepare and bring a centerpiece of mason jars with lovely green candles in them that were scented—nobody wants spiced pear competing with their pizza fragrances.

Appreciate the Process and the Product. This is a working farm with real animals and crops. Care is taken to provide an attractive and environmentally friendly gathering place with well-kept buildings and a composting restroom. The beauty and draw of the Pizza Farm is the fact that we're eating pizza on a farm with food that was grown there and baked in an oven right before our eyes. Something I just learned this last time I was there is that to get the oven hot enough for baking our pizzas



Continued on page 30 ➔

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SLICE

Below - left: Make time for pie from the Stockholm Pie Company; right: waiting for our number. Photos by Andy Lien

with speed and efficiency on Tuesday nights, it's lit on Sunday. And on these chilly fall nights, it's nice to hover by that fire watching the pizzas emerge, bubbly and hot, aromatic and crisp.

Order a Variety of Pizza and Watch the Magic Happen. When you approach the buildings on the Pizza Farm, the one with the oven is where you should aim. Just this year, to comply with Wisconsin laws, the Pizza Farm no longer allows people to carry in their own alcoholic beverages, but you can buy beer and wine in the same building as the pizza oven; enjoy the local favorites at reasonable prices. There's a large chalkboard with that night's menu on it and, though the pizzas run a little high in price, they are of great quality and flavor. The pizzas are the destination, so plan to savor them. Instead of a tomato sauce, sliced tomatoes are incorporated with the toppings and then roasted atop the pizzas as they bake in the hot ovens. These are not your cheese-monster gooey slices of pie as found in traditional pizzerias, but are artisan-style in their carefully chosen combinations of flavors. My favorite version of all time incorporated slab bacon, but all of the varieties have proven to be popular with the pizza eaters in my parties through the years. Squash, beets, lamb, pesto, olives—all sorts of flavors can be found at the Pizza Farm. Order a number of pies and share liberally. Our party of nine had three pizzas this year...but a party of four scarfed four a few years ago. It all depends on what else you bring for side dishes and how ravenous rush hour or shopping have made you.

Follow the Rules. No pets. Bring cash or check, no plastic. Don't touch the electric fences, consider all fences to be electric. Park where the signs indicate. It's an operating farm, not a petting zoo. Don't go tromping through crops, stay on mowed paths. Mind your children and your unruly friends. And, most importantly...

Pack It In, Pack It Out. Bring a bag for garbage or recycling because everything you bring that has packaging has to leave with you, as well as your new pizza boxes that your meal comes in and the bottles of beer or wine that you buy. We split up the garbage and recycling between the people in our party and each took some of the waste home to continue our Pizza Farm experience by being environmentally responsible.

Mostly, Eat Slowly and Breathe Deeply. You're away from the city and rush hour and obligations. Put the smartphone down (or Instagram everything like I do), just make sure you relax as you're doing it. It's a sensory experience, so use your senses and actually experience the farm as a last hurrah before the snow flies. □

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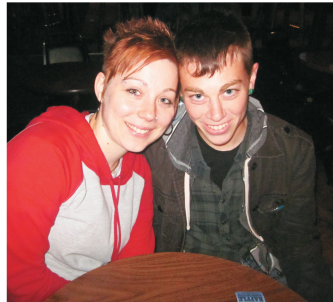
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BAR SHOWCASE | photos by George Holdgrafer

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Pool aficionado Jerry Schwartz coordinates the monthly events. Schwartz says, "Anyone is welcome to join us for the tournament, whether you're a player or spectator." His brother, the late Patrick



Pool tournament coordinator Jerry Schwartz cues a shot. Photo by George Holdgrafer

"Hero" Schwartz, was a Twin Cities gay activist who launched the nationwide "pie-ing" of homophobes when he tossed a cream pie at Archbishop John Roach of St. Paul and Minneapolis in 1977 that landed in his face.

The 19 participates in the weekly games of the Twin Cities Gay Pool League, which also holds a year-end tournament in the spring. □

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→ BILLIE SAGE ASHTON

Photo by Hubert Bonnet

The first trans person to transition on the job within her department, Billie Sage Ashton has been received with open arms at Delta Airlines. She knew she was transgender since the age of 12, but says she hasn't been full-time until this year at 55. As a customer service agent within the ground operations department of Delta, Ashton makes sure bags get to the proper places. As a transgender woman, however, she says, "They definitely value their work force and I couldn't wait to make my transition," feeling blessed to work for such a progressive company. A vocal advocate for activism, Ashton has lobbied, attended rallies and celebrations, and created "Transtastic Thursday," an annual community event during Twin Cities Pride week. "I think the biggest factor for me over the years has been to be out and visible. The more trans people come out, the more we create awareness as a community."

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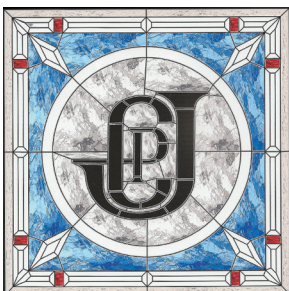


→ LUPE CASTILLO

Photo by Sophia Hantzes

It was Lupe Castillo's experience within the infrastructures of education, non-profits, arts, health and social services which have inspired her work to impact the access GLBT communities have to resources as well as consulting on conversations about undoing racism as systemic change. "To work on one's own fears and barriers does not bring fame and attention. But it does bring me peace," Castillo says. "I bring the principles of healing, equity, and social justice to those in my care and close to my heart." As an ally and activist, Castillo builds greater community impact in ways that honor culture and people's multiple identities. "To have someone who is questioning see a mirroring, as a Latina, Indigenous, Mexicana-Indigena, is revolutionary. My soul broke open to a new consciousness when I met LGBTQ mujeres like Cherie Moraga, Gloria Anzuldúa, or allies like Ana Castillo. In being available to others, it is a way to honor the struggle of those who don't feel they can be 'out' or visible."

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→ CATHY CROGHAN

Photo courtesy of Cathy Croghan

Her work has focused on developing research data to assess the needs of the aging GLBT community, but Cathy Croghan brings a public health perspective to her data work. Professionally, Croghan serves as a public health nurse and geriatric community health consultant, but she has spent her time working with organizations to enhance access for the GLBT community to existing aging service networks. "I'm a fairly impatient person," Croghan says. "If you want something done, you should actively work to make it happen." Her vision is for easy access to high quality, welcoming services that promote healthy aging.

Organizational Involvement: American Society of Aging's LGBT Aging Issues Network (LAIN) Leadership Council, National LGBT Aging Roundtable, National LGBT Aging Resource Center's Advisory Council, Friends of the Ramsey County Libraries, and Training to Serve

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→ SHARON M. DAY

Photo by Sophia Hantzes

"As an Ojibwe lesbian, I have spent my life in resistance to racism, sexism, and homophobia," says Sharon Day. As the Executive Director of the Indigenous Peoples Task Force for the past 23 years, Day has worked on a number of issues including HIV prevention and care, youth prevention programs, and community gardens. Also important to Day is education around Two Spirit societies and the importance of wholeness, which is what Two Spirit or LGBT Natives bring to the table. "We complete the circle," Day says. This idea is reflected in her attitude toward her work. Day also works to incorporate the seven grandfather/grandmother teachings of the Ojibwe people into her work and use them to move forward. These teachings are based on love, kindness, respect, gratitude, honor, to seek wisdom, and humility. Looking at a broader view of what affects the GLBT community, Day says: "I think the issue of the day is protecting our water. I have led two water walks. The first from Gulf Port Mississippi to the Great Lakes and the second was from the headwaters of the Mississippi River to the mouth of the river near Venice, LA. As a Two Spirit Lesbian, I believe that I can help bring about reconciliation between Whites and Natives and straights and gays. We do complete the circle of life and without water there is no life. Please see the Mississippi Water Walk Facebook 2013 for a short video on the walk. The pictures tell so much more than I can with words."

Organizational Involvement:
Indigenous Peoples Task Force, International Two Spirit Gatherings, Pan-gea Theater, WEI, Nibi Walks



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→ TOM DEGREEE & DEAN SCHLAACK

Photo by images by aimee

“We have a responsibility to give back to the community that supports us,” says Tom DeGreee (right), co-owner of Wilde Roast Café with his husband, Dean Schlaak (left). At the forefront of the fight for marriage equality, DeGreee and Schlaak took their passion and put their money and time toward the cause. The two men have donated funds, products, and volunteer hours to many organizations; their café often designates an organization to receive dollars from a special menu. Without a designated “gay area” in Minneapolis, such as The Castro in San Francisco, DeGreee and Schlaak created a place for all to feel welcome. “We wanted to make a place where a gay couple could sit next to a straight couple, or a kid who was coming out could bring his/her parents,” DeGreee says. “And we feel really proud that we have created a safe place for the trans community.”

Organizational Involvement:
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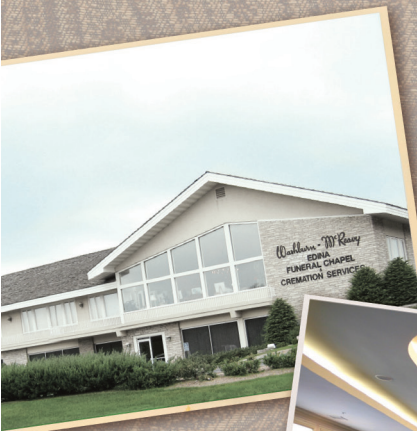
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→ PHIL DURAN

Photo by Stan Waldhauser

During his tenure with the Minnesota State Bar Association (MSBA), Phil Duran has had a long history of advocating for GLBT issues. This includes getting the MSBA to come out against an early marriage amendment in 2004 and then again in favor of marriage equality back in 2010. Since becoming the first GLBT President of the MSBA, Duran has continued his supportive stance, bringing on a diversity director later this year and extending benefits to members' partners/spouses as well as helping to develop better policies and procedures to fit the needs of the trans community. For Duran, getting involved with civil rights work through various avenues is a way to make a difference. "I want to do my part to make things better for LGBT people and others," he says. "I am very privileged to have had multiple opportunities to do this in my years in Minnesota."


Organizational Involvement:
OutFront Minnesota, Minnesota State Advisory Committee to the US Commission on Civil Rights, Council on American-Islamic Relations of Minnesota, First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis, Management Assistance Program (MAP) for Nonprofits



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→ PETER GOLDEN

Photo by Sophia Hantzes

Peter Golden has been involved with GLBT issues for over a decade, and this Duluth resident shows no signs of stopping. His accomplishments range from working with the Duluth police department on gay harassment issues to various projects benefiting the Minnesota AIDS Project. Golden has held every board position with the Northland Gay Men's Center (NGMC) at some point since 1993. During his tenure with NGMC, he's given out \$40,000 in grants, lead hundreds of support group sessions, and inspired the start of the Arrowhead Transgender Group. For those who attend the Duluth-Superior Pride Fruit Float, Peter can always be seen flying a big rainbow flag on shore.

Organizational Involvement: LGBTQ Safer Schools Task Force, Duluth HIV Task Force, Minnesota AIDS Project, OutFront Minnesota



→ LOU HOFFMAN

Photo by Sophia Hantzes

Prior to her role as the chair of the Bisexual Organizing Project (BOP), Lou Hoffman also acted as a volunteer and board member for the organization in several roles, including treasurer, board member at large, and Pride committee head. "I want a strong bi community to live in, and a strong and accepting queer community as well," Hoffman says. "The only way to get that is to work for it." And work she does! Hoffman works with the LGBTQIA community through BOP in three different facets: as the first encounter people have with the community, in identity affirmation for those in the greater queer communities, and as a source of information for those who want more information on bisexuality.

Organizational Involvement: BiNet USA, Minnesotans United for All Families, Transgender Health Conference, PFund

→ TISH JONES

Photo by Mike Hnida

Spoken word has often been used as an avenue to voice issues facing the artists. Tish Jones uses her platforms as a spoken word artist, emcee, organizer and educator to often address issues pertaining to the GLBTQ community. The founder, executive, and artistic director of TruArtSpeaks, Jones teaches performance art and creative writing in schools, libraries, art centers and prisons throughout the Twin Cities. Borrowing a quote from Professor Mahmoud El Kati, Jones says “I do what I do for life, not for a living.” This can be seen as she uses her creative work to produce safe spaces for GLBTQ community members to create, develop and share their stories. Jones notes that hopefully this also aids in “finding and expanding their sense of community, network, allies and resources” through various avenues on both local and national levels.

**Organizational
Involvement:**
TruArtSpeaks



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Photo courtesy of Professor Mary Jo Kane

→ PROFESSOR MARY JO KANE

With a research topic surrounding media coverage of women's sports, Professor Mary Jo Kane confronts head-on the damaging effects of lesbian stereotypes long associated with women's sports. Director of the Tucker Center for Research on Girls & Women in Sports, the first center of its kind in the nation, "I point out that the so-called problem in women's sports is not the presence of lesbians," Kane says, "it's the presence of discrimination and homophobia." Kane, who loves being involved in research that impacts the lives of girls and women, their families and communities, finds great joy in sharing that research with students, policy makers, parents, and the general public. According to Kane, "knowledge based on empirical data is a powerful way to combat and overcome discrimination (such as homophobia) which limits people's abilities to become who they truly are and want to be."

Organizational Involvement: North American Society for the Sociology of Sports, Tucker Center for Research on Girls & Women in Sports



→ RABBI MICHAEL ADAM LATZ, SENIOR RABBI, SHIR TIKVAH CONGREGATION

Photo by Terry Gydesen, www.terrygydesen.com

As the spiritual leader of a diverse and dedicated synagogue community, Rabbi Michael Adam Latz is inspired by the congregation's vision of a world of dignity and equality. "For so long, people experienced organized religion as hostile to GLBTQ souls," he says. "I don't do what I do despite my Jewish tradition, I do it precisely because Judaism demands we give voice to the voiceless and widen the circle of human compassion." Together, he and his congregation took a significant responsibility upon themselves to defeat the constitutional amendments in 2012, followed by a strong passion to lead the way as people of faith toward marriage equality. "If doing this work can help one kid see she has a future," he says, "if it can help one person struggling to stay in his home, if it can stop one act of gun violence, we bring about tikkun—healing in our world."

Organizational Involvement: Shir Tikvah, the Minnesota Rabbinical Association, Jewish Community Action, Project 515, J-Street, Minnesotans United for All Families, Mayors Against Illegal Guns, Rabbis Organizing Rabbis for Immigration Reform, Planned Parenthood



→ GAEBRIEL LYREK

Photo courtesy of Gaebriel Lyrek

Faced with his own set of challenges in navigating the medical system when transitioning, Gaebriel Lyrek saw an opportunity to help others. No one would answer his questions about things like prescriptions or insurance to cover surgery, so Lyrek decided to help others who may be in his shoes. "By helping another trans person navigate through some of the medical red tape, hopefully they can pay it forward and help someone else who may be seeking the same information," he says. Lyrek views it as something people should put into practice everyday: show kindness to others. Living life with his wife of ten years and their daughter, Gaebriel also prioritizes involvement in the group Minneapolis Boys Night for transmen that was started a few years ago: "A bunch of guys were sitting around one day and came to realize that we needed a group for t-guys that was just to have fun and make some new friends. We aren't an activist group of any kind, we just provide opportunities to hang out with other transmen. If conversations around transitioning come up then great, if not then that's great too. Minneapolis Boys Night wasn't made for all trans guys but all trans guys are welcome. The folks at The Exchange (located at 3500 Chicago Ave. S.) have been gracious enough to have provided mobile shot clinic to the guys who attend due to some of the guys not being out or transportation issues, so they have helped provide us with a bit of discretion, privacy, and mobility."

**Organizational
Involvement:**
**Minneapolis
Boys Night**



→ JENN MELBY-KELLEY

Photo by Chelsea Morning Photography

For the last five years, Jenn Melby-Kelley has worked to preserve and strengthen one of the Mankato region's first GLBT-owned establishments. As the owner of the Coffee Hag, she has worked her wife, Anna, and other business owners to devise ways in which entrepreneurs can drive social change. She says, "I've always placed special emphasis on using The Coffee Hag to create a safe place where everyone - especially people who may have been bullied or harassed because of their orientation or gender identity - can come, be among friends, and feel safe and supported." This ethic comes from her pay-it-forward attitude. "I've benefitted tremendously from the love and support of family, friends and allies in the community," she says. "I feel very strongly called to do my part and pay that forward now that I'm in a position to support others, help drive progress for our community, work towards a better future for the next generation."



→ DOUG MELROE

Photo by Carl Martin

Sign him up for anything! As long as Doug Melroe is able to bring more awareness to the fight against AIDS, he will attach his name to the cause. "I am always inspired by our community and how strong we are when we work together," Melroe says. In honor and memory of many friends that have passed, Melroe continues to use his charm and charisma to fight, citing his HIV+ friends as true heroes and motivators. "We have lost so many amazing people that changed my life and changed the world," he says. "I have not forgotten them and will continue work until we see the end of AIDS."

Organizational Involvement: Minnesota AIDS Project, Minnesota AIDS Walk, Red Ribbon Ride, The Aliveness Project

Rev. Howard Bell (Interim Minnesota Conference Minister), Marc Blakesley, Maggie George, Aaron Lauer, and Rev. Kathy Itzin (UCC "Vote No" Core Team leaders), Rev. Oby Ballinger (UCC Organizer with Minnesotans United for All Families), Rev. Jane McBride (Lead Minister of First Congregational Church of Minnesota, UCC in Minneapolis). Core Team leaders not pictured: Gary Boelhower, Ruth Larson, and Eric Espinoza.



Photo by Hubert Bonnet

→ THE MINNESOTA CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Minnesota Conference is part of the national United Church of Christ (UCC), which has a long history of support for the LGBTQ community going back for decades. In this spirit, the Minnesota Conference conducts a special worship service annually to celebrate Open and Affirming activities and has an inspirational "ONA Gathering" each June. According to Rev. Oby Ballinger, "Responding to the call of God in these faithful actions, 40 of our 135 UCC churches in Minnesota are now officially "Open and Affirming", while many others practice the ONA spirit but have not yet made an official declaration." Following the belief that the call of God is to "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly," UCC members and churches helped thousands of people understand that voting no was an act of faith and an expression of love for all God's people. The Minnesota Conference was an active partner in the Minnesotans United for All Families and Our Vote Our Future campaigns, contributing significant funds for people-of-faith organizing and recruiting hundreds of volunteers from member churches. "We are proud of our stand on behalf of the LGBTQ community and deeply honored to receive this award," interim Minnesota Conference Minister Howard Bell said. "We hope that this recognition might help those who have felt oppressed or persecuted by other faith communities to know that there is a Christian faith that welcomes, affirms, embraces and supports them in all aspects of life and ministry."

Organizational Involvement: Minnesotans United for All Families, Our Vote Our Future, Minnesota Council of Churches, Joint Religious Legislative Coalition, ISAIAH, and Prophetic Voices Minnesota



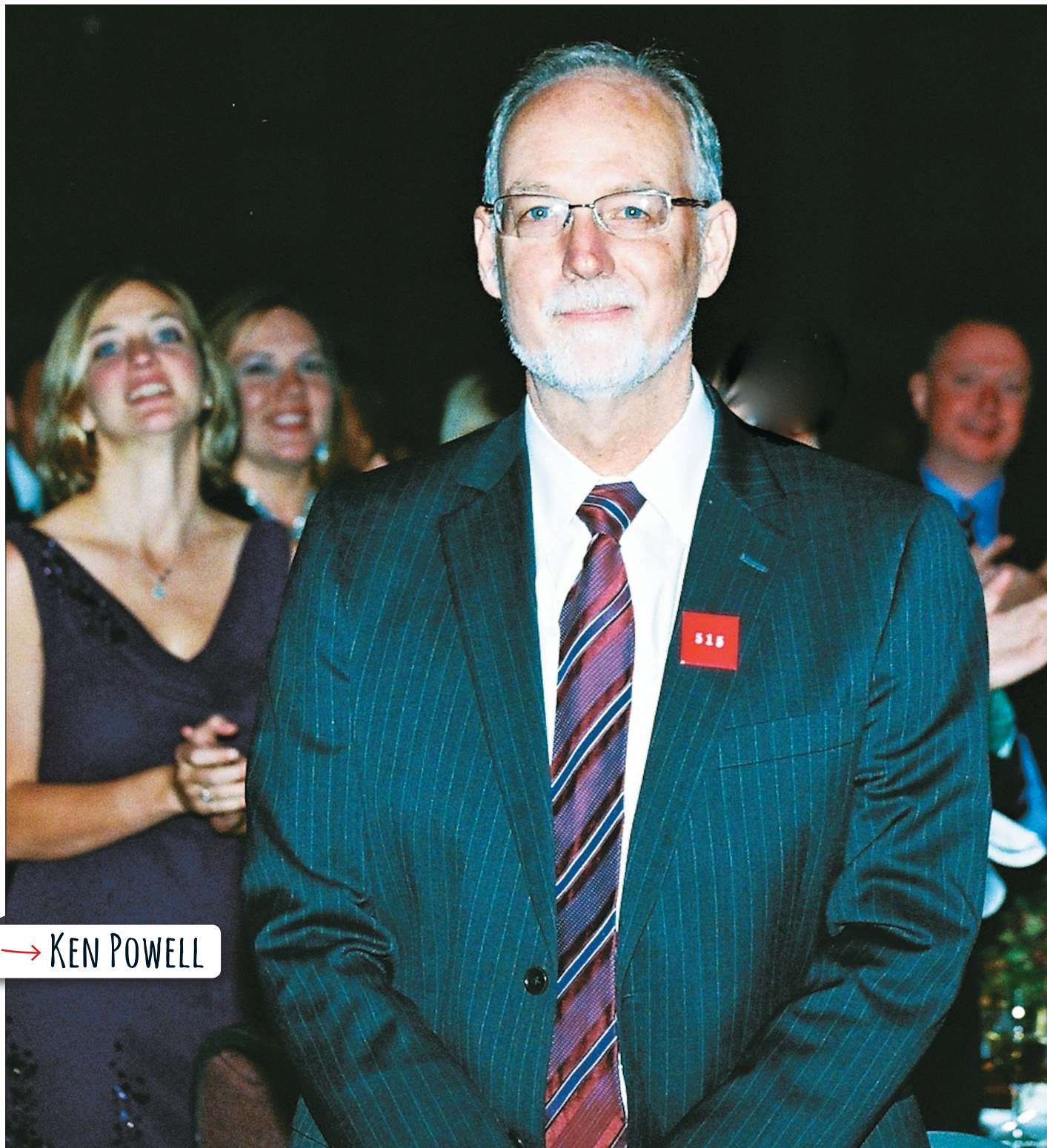
→ ONE VOICE MIXED CHORUS

One Voice Mixed Chorus unites GLBT individuals and straight allies to fulfill its mission of “building community and creating social change by raising our voices in song.” Kate Krisik, Executive Director with One Voice, says, “As long as people face discrimination, injustice, and inequality because of who they are, One Voice will continue its work of building community and creating social change by raising their voices in song.” Founded in 1988, One Voice performs 20 to 30 concerts each year, including performances in middle and high schools, faith communities, corporate diversity events, and community gatherings, in addition to the regular concert series. The chorus’ annual outreach tour touches audiences in communities throughout greater Minnesota and



Photo courtesy of One Voice Mixed Chorus

surrounding states. This year's outreach tour through Greater Minnesota is the focus of a documentary that will air on TPT on Sunday, November 17, at 9 pm. Since 1999, One Voice has also collaborated with metro-area schools providing positive GLBT role models and quality music in their interactive OUT in our Schools program. As said in the One Voice's LCA nomination: "Imagine what it's like for those kids to to see in person that life gets better! "



→ KEN POWELL

Photo by Sophia Hantzes

It is not often that a large company like General Mills will voice its opinion on ballot measures, but when CEO Ken Powell addressed the marriage amendment last November, he made it clear that General Mills stood on the side of equality. “We don’t believe this is in the best interest of our state, or our employees, and so as a Minnesota-based company we took the position and opposed it,” Powell said at a press conference at the time. Seen as an issue that impacted the company’s employees, had the amendment passed, it would have made the state “less inclusive and reduced our company’s ability to attract and retain talent,” according to General Mills. General Mills prides itself on creating an inclusive culture that welcomes the values and contributions of all: “We value diversity. We value inclusion. We always have...and we always will.” And it will never be forgotten that General Mills made this clear stance for equality with Ken Powell at its helm.



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Prime Timers - Seated (l-r): Harry, Michael, and Ray; standing (l-r): Rob, Dave, Tim, Fr. Michael, Don, and Don.



→ PRIME TIMERS

Photo by Hubert Bonnet

A group for mature gay and bisexual men and their admirers, Prime Timers has grown to over 70 chapters throughout North America, Australia and Europe with membership in the thousands. The local chapter, with membership of over 200, although being non-political, is concerned with social issues that affect older gay and bisexual men. The members come together for the comradeship – the social aspect helping a generation that was afraid to come out of the closet. “You’re with a bunch of men who are all from the same generation, so you’re all coming from the same mindset,” says Don Prince, a member since 2008. Members agree that some of the older generation don’t feel valued, so an important part of the group is getting them out, feeling proud of who they are as well as the value they bring to the community, stressing the importance that the community fight ageism and take advantage of wisdom that the elders bring with them. And, for a generation that may have come out and faced rejection by their own families, Prime Timers provides a chosen family for many. They are their own support system and take care of each other.

Organizational Involvement:
AARP, Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly, Twin Cities Pride



→ CAPTAIN TARA ROBERTSON

Photo by Hubert Bonnet

Aug. 1 marked the wedding day of many same-sex couples newly given the freedom to marry in Minnesota. Among those to sign marriage certificates on the first were Minnesota National Guard Army Capt. Tara Robertson (left) and Julia Bayless (right), who held their ceremony the next day and are the first same-sex couple to receive spousal military benefits in Minnesota. Robertson first enlisted in 2005 but has been out in the military since 2010, long before marriage equality and well before the repeal of DADT and DOMA. "Being gay in the military wasn't (or isn't) something that defines who I am," Robertson says. "It just happens to be who I am." Paving the way for other out members of the military, Robertson talks openly about being gay, working to educate other members of the military that might not have known a gay individual. She recently served in Afghanistan as a member of the Guard's Agribusiness Development Team. While there, she performed 280 missions and earned a Combat Action Badge for engaging in direct armed combat with enemy forces. She is currently the Guard's Substance Abuse Prevention Program Manager, working to ensure that the best resources are provided for service members struggling with alcohol and other drug abuse issues. "The most important things to me are doing my job well, being a good leader and role model, and helping other service members and military family members," Robertson says.



→ MAYOR R.T. RYBAK

Photo by Sophia Hantzes

One of the most vocal public figures supporting marriage equality this past year, R.T. Rybak, remains a strong ally for the GLBT community despite stepping down as Mayor of Minneapolis next term. On August 1, when Minnesota officially became a state in which same-sex marriage is legal, Rybak began marrying same-sex couples at 12:01 a.m., eventually issuing 46 marriage licenses before his day was finished. Earlier in September, Rybak began a campaign touring neighboring states to promote marriage equality in Minnesota. His tourism campaign is encouraging same-sex couples in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Colorado to wed in Minneapolis which not only helps Minneapolis tourism but also shows just how important it is to the tourism and commerce of those states to support marriage equality. His support of the community is not a new venture, however. Before entering politics, Rybak worked as a journalist, notably starting Q Monthly, a local GLBT magazine in the mid-1990s.



Photo by Sophia Hantzes

Deaf and legally blind (DeafBlind) and gay community activist Barry Segal has made education a top priority. His long standing work has revolved around educating about DeafBlind culture and issues facing the community, but has risen to the occasion in the past year with marriage equality on the table. His work with GLBT organizations such as OutFront Minnesota and Minnesotans United for All Families earned him the Community Activist award for 2013 Twin Cities Pride, but his work didn't stop there. Taking it upon himself to create video blogs in American Sign Language, Segal urged other deaf Minnesotans to vote no on the marriage amendment and stressed why gay marriage shouldn't be banned in the state of Minnesota. Able to reach the deaf community like no one else could, Segal also gave presentations to community organizations on topics that would have otherwise likely gone unaddressed.

Organizational Involvement:
OutFront Minnesota, Minnesotans United for All Families



→ MARTY SHIMKO

Photo courtesy of US Bank

Serving in the Community Affairs Division, Marty Shimko has been working for the past ten years to promote U.S. Bank as a bank which embraces diversity among both customers and employees. His efforts have organized U.S. Bank's LGBT Employee Group, the bank's participation in Twin Cities Pride events, as well as raised more than \$270,000 to aid homeless LGBT youth. His work with the Arise Project (which helps LGBT homeless youth) and Quorum has impacted countless lives. "I am fortunate to work in a company that accepts and promotes the talents of all of its employees and allows our LGBTQ employees to identify as such," he says. "Being able to be myself and know that my company supports me is huge."

Organizational Involvement:
**U.S. Bank Spectrum
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Jacob Frey, Founder of
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→ BETTY TISEL

Photo by Terry Gydesen, www.terrygydesen.com

Betty Tisel was nominated for a Lavender Community Award as being one of the most active, apparent, and present volunteers of the campaigns against the marriage amendment and for marriage equality. People look to her for leadership and they are not disappointed. Following the successful end of the marriage equality campaign, Tisel turns to other issues that require attention. "My top concerns right now are equity and climate. Equity includes closing the gaps on class, race, gender, orientation, education, and more. Climate change is breathing hotly down all of our collective necks." Tisel is "motivated by a strong combination of guilt and personal responsibility, fueled by optimism and the desire for a more just world."

Organizational Involvement:
Minnesota Community Sings

NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY LUNCHEON

October 11 • 11am – 1pm

Marriott City Center • 30 S. 7th St., Minneapolis

Join Quorum for the 20th Annual National Coming Out Day Luncheon. This inspirational community luncheon gives voice to the power of living openly, honestly and with authenticity at work, in our families and in our communities of faith. The featured speakers include: Minneapolis Police Chief Janee Harteau, Bill Hudson, former President of Totino Grace; Judge Victoria Kolakowski, First elected Transgender Trial Judge in US; Jacob Frey, Founder of The Big Gay Race and GLBT ally. Tickets are available at www.twincities-quorum.com or email events@twincitiesquorum.com.

THE KINKY ZOMBIE PUB CRAWL

October 12 • 9pm – 2am

Gay 90's • 408 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis

Head down to the Gay 90's for the ReelOUT Short Film Competition kickoff party. The evening includes dancing, a costume contest with a \$100 first prize, and the premiere of the ReelOUT Short Film Competition promo video and Indie-GoGo campaign video. There will also be a "Flesh Party" in the Gay 90's back room. Search "Kinky Zombie Pub Crawl" on Facebook for more info.

OUTFRONT MINNESOTA ANNUAL GALA

October 19 • 5pm

WALKER ART CENTER • 1750 HENNEPIN AVE., MINNEAPOLIS

Let's celebrate the historic achievements made here in Minnesota, and get inspired to continue the momentum in 2014 and beyond! This year's theme is MOMENTUM >> Movement. People. Power. The evening features a cocktail reception, stage program hosted by Jason Matheson, and an after party

with DJ Shannon Blowtorch. The stage program will honor three leaders who are advancing equality for LGBT people across the state. Visit www.outfront.org/gala or tickets and more information.

BINGO A GO GO

October 19 • 5:30pm

Hyatt Minneapolis • 1300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis

Do you love Halloween and dressing up as much as Miss Richfield 1981? Well, your chance is coming! Once again, it's time to get out the daubers and get together for an evening of bingo, raffles, and great entertainment. This year's theme is Monster Bingo, and I can only imagine what Miss Richfield 1981, Shannon Regan from Park House, and Jeff Heine from the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus will be wearing. Tickets are \$35 in advance, \$40 at the door, and benefit Park House and Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus. Visit www.bingoagogo.com for more details and to purchase your tickets.



Photo by Sophia Hantzes

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→ TWIN CITIES GAY MEN'S CHORUS

Choral singing is one of those art forms that can build bridges. Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus does just that by giving a voice to the community through music. Their program "Marry Us" was performed as an outreach project throughout the state of Minnesota to fight for marriage equality as a way to put a voice (and a voice) to the community. "Our community and our music simultaneously welcome the person who may be questioning their sexuality to the family member who is unfamiliar with the GLBTQ community," says



Photo by Brent Dundore

Jeff Heine, executive director with TCGMC. "Music is the common language that we use to tell the stories of our community, encouraging our audience to find relevance in what we sing with events from their own lives, bringing us closer together."

Organizational Involvement: Queer Music Consortium, Minnesotans United for All Families, Project 515, Marry Us Campaign, The Aliveness Project



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 Anguksuar (Richard LaFortune)
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 Claire Avitabile
 Mary Brewster
 Katie Burgess
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 Jacob Frey
 Derek Harley
 Andrea Jenkins
 JJ Kahle
 Joe Larson, Tim Marburger, & Monica
 Travis – The Aliveness Project
 Jason Matheson
 Minnesotans United for All Families
 Kevin Kaoz Moore
 Shannon Regan
 Rick Perry & Eric Blad
 Miss Richfield 1981
 Jordan Roberge
 Barbara Satin
 Patrick Scully
 Shades of Yellow
 John Sullivan
 Soul Friday (Sally Nixon, Ann Freeman,
 Lady L, and Shannon Blowtorch)
 John Townsend
 Bradley Traynor

Photos by Mike Hmida & Hubert Bonnet

As a testament to the work that people in our community have done--and continue to do--a number of last year's winners were also nominated this year. Thank you to the 2012 recipients of the Lavender 100 Awards who provide leadership year after year.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR LESBIAN RIGHTS WITH KATE KENDELL SEPTEMBER 12, 2013





Six Questions with Minneapolis Mayoral Candidate CAM WINTON

This series of questions and answers with some of the Minneapolis mayoral candidates is to give the GLBT community a glimpse of five of the candidates this year. Lavender selected five diverse candidates from the field of almost three dozen to give readers a taste of their ideas and philosophies. Six questions have been formulated to give these candidates a place to express their leadership styles and approaches to governance. These questions are on general topics because the GLBT community is as interested in safe communities, accountable government, and budget priorities as the rest of the greater Minneapolis community. Since Minneapolis is the largest city in the state and its downtown has many amenities used by the rest of the state, this mayor's race affects people living outside its borders. Hopefully, this series will interest and inform your choice for mayor and stimulate discussions.

1. Mayor Rybak really pushed for making Minneapolis a more “liveable” city advocating for more public art, mass transit and community programs. How would your approach as mayor differ and what would be the theme for your term?

As mayor, I'll build on the city's many strengths while bringing a fresh set of eyes to improve what needs improving. I'm fiscally responsible and socially inclusive. My vision: jobs for all who need them, elected officials acting as good stewards of tax dollars, schools that put kids first, residents receiving essential services effectively, and residents moving around our city more easily. To achieve these goals, I'd draw upon my successful private sector track record of building a wind-turbine maintenance business with my co-workers and practicing law.

2. Safe neighborhoods are important to all citizens but the GLBT community is especially sensitive on this issue. How would you work with police, community groups, and the city council towards making the city safer?

To have safer streets, our city needs to focus on five key dynamics:

a) We need better schools so that students can secure high-wage jobs – since people with jobs tend not to commit crimes. To achieve this goal, I'll push for common-sense education reform that puts students first.

b) We need more businesses starting and growing here to employ those residents. To achieve this goal, I'll draw on my background building a business to strip away the red tape that trips up too many businesses today.

c) We need stronger families, as children from strong families are less likely to commit crime. To achieve this goal, I'll keep asking my fellow fathers to step up and do their part to create stable households.

d) We need more-tightly-knit neighborhoods, since residents with closer ties to each other look out for each other more effectively. To achieve this goal, I'll ensure the city supports neighborhood watches.

e) We need to fully staff our police force and ensure it's well disciplined. We have 390,000 residents and so should have 975 cops, but today we only have 850. As much as possible, I'd like those additional police to be on bicycle so that they can connect with citizens more effectively. I'll ensure we're creating a culture of all officers feeling

empowered to hold each other to high standards of integrity.

3. Block E hasn't been a great success.

What would you support doing with the site to make Hennepin Avenue a better venue?

I hope the owners of Block E would find it financially viable to turn Block E into a sports facility like Chelsea Piers in NYC, with indoor soccer, volleyball, ice rinks, and racquet sports. In the past, city leaders thought we could catalyze development by providing hand-outs to developers, like at Block E. It didn't work. We need to learn from past mistakes and ensure that as we develop the Downtown East project (adjacent to the Vikings stadium), the Southwest Light Rail, or any other project using public dollars, we measure twice and cut once.

4. Mayor Rybak was an advocate for public spending on the Vikings' stadium. If the Timberwolves, for example, began demanding a new arena, how would you deal with that situation?

I'd remind the Timberwolves that the renovation process currently underway has created a world-class home for them already. If they persisted in demanding a new arena, I'd wish them good luck in their future city. We've already spent too much money on arenas owned by billionaires, played in by millionaires, and worked in by people making minimum wage. Enough is enough.

5. The GLBT community members are taxpayers and as such we care about accountability for the city's budget. How would you make sure we aren't wasting money on duplicate programs or unproductive initiatives?

Currently, the City and Hennepin County maintain many duplicate functions, including 911, IT, HR, finance, and procurement. By consolidating back offices, I'll achieve savings for city residents and put the savings towards essential services and property tax relief. Additionally, I'll make sure that we fully fund the basics (such as road repair, a fully-staffed police department, and \$2-million-per-mile enhancements to our bus system) before buying the bells and whistles (like a \$40 million-per-mile streetcar line or the current tap water marketing campaign).

6. What direction do you think Minneapolis should take concerning energy use and affordability for residents and businesses?

My colleagues and I built a company that provides services for wind turbines across the country, including all of Xcel Energy's. Last year, we sold our company, preserving all 120 jobs and sharing the benefits with all employees. So, I know about energy. We all want to reduce carbon output, but if the City unilaterally requires businesses to reduce their carbon output, many of them will simply move out. Similarly, if the City tried to install its own solar facilities, the electricity would be significantly more expensive than market-rate power, and the money would have to come from the pockets of taxpayers who are already feeling squeezed. ■



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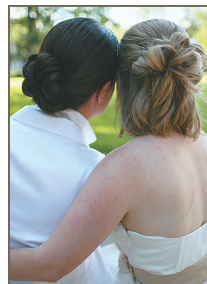
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Keep Paddling

"Oh, Jen, I'm so depressed."

This was one of the first full sentences I heard from my new friend, Tinky, who was sitting in the front seat of our two-person kayak.

"Umm....how depressed, Tinky?" I asked nervously, staring into the ice-blue glacier waters of the Bay of Alaska. Tinky, who couldn't swim and was terrified of the ocean, was partnered with me on this all-day paddle because I was the only person who made her laugh in the two days we'd been in the Alaskan wilderness. "Depressed enough that you want to capsize the boat and kill us both via hypothermia?"

"Depressed enough to think that's not a bad idea," she said, dipping her hand into the chilly water.

I had met Tinky on our van ride from Anchorage to Seward. Twelve strangers, most of us in our 40s and 50s, had piled into the van for our weeklong women's adventure trip. As we all chatted merrily on the four-hour ride, Tinky, only 30-years-old and the youngest of our group, feigned sleep and didn't speak for the entire trip. When we got to the lodge, she moodily walked the rocky beach alone and stared out at the sea.

While the other women gave her space, I

sensed that she needed to be pestered. "Hey, Tink," I said, dangling a wine bottle in front of her. "I made a bet with the others that I can get you to say more than three words."

"You lose," she said, grabbing the wine from me. But when I noticed her trying to suppress a smirk, I knew she would soon cave to my incessant charm.

By the end of the evening, she had confessed that she was not looking forward to any activity on our itinerary. She didn't want to get on a horse, had no interest in climbing a glacier, and wanted absolutely nothing to do with the ocean.

"Then why the hell did you come on this trip?" I asked.

She looked up at me gravely over the rim of her wine glass. "Needed to get far away from my troubles, Jen."

Tinky is a boyishly adorable native of the Philippines and Olympic fencer who moved to Phoenix to get her PhD in engineering. Clearly the thing she needed to get away from was some type of romantic drama. But she withheld the full extent of her heartbreak until we were alone in a kayak. In the middle of the frigid Bay of Alaska. With only one of us knowing how to swim.

Once you've settled comfortably into the

warm, comforting waters of middleage, you forget the roiling, unpredictable rapids of young adulthood. As Tinky spilled her story of love gone stupidly wrong, I comforted her with tales of my ridiculous youth. None of my romantic humiliations could compare with Tinky's drama, which involved her locked in a literal death match with a fellow fencer who stole her girlfriend, but I find that playing the fool always helps lighten the mood. By the time we were paddling for home, Tinky had shucked off her cloak of despair and was looking to me as her madcap role model.

"You are even a bigger idiot than me!" she exclaimed as we pulled the boat onto shore. "Yet, now you are very old and in a peaceful, happy relationship." (Isn't it awesome when 30-year-olds call 40-somethings old? When I questioned her about this characterization, she said, "Well, you're older than many buildings in Phoenix.")

"And, believe it or not, you'll find that you won't miss the drama. Just keep paddling. You'll get there someday," I said sagely.

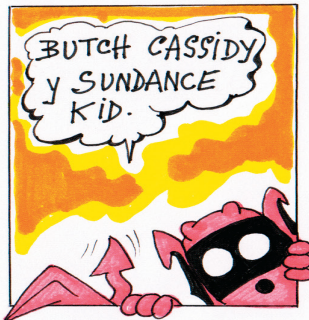
"Yes," she nodded. "When I am very old like you." With that, I grabbed her and tossed her in the water that she was so terrified of. And then I dove in after her and saved her. □

TROLÍN, UN DIABLITO ROSA

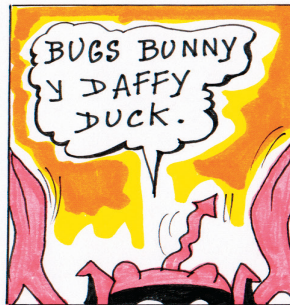
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Serving men, women and families in an inclusive, welcoming environment. Locations in Downtown, Uptown, Midtown.
1130 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 215-4118
www.ywcampls.org

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Family Tree Clinic

LGBTQ Health Matters at Family Tree! Offering respectful, affordable sexual health to meet your needs.
1619 Dayton Ave.
St. Paul, MN
(651) 645-0478
www.familytree

LIBRARY

Quatrefoil Library

We will be closed the month of October and opening at Spirit on Lake November 1st.
1220 E. Lake St.
Minneapolis, MN 55407
(612) 729-2543
www.qlibrary.org

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

MPR & The Current

Providing in depth news coverage, classical music, and emerging artists on our three regional services.
480 Cedar St.
St. Paul, MN
(651) 290-1500
www.mpr.org

Radio K 770

Radio K is the student-run radio station of the University of Minnesota
330 21st Ave. S.
610 Rarig Center
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 625-3500
www.radiok.org

MENTAL HEALTH

People Incorporated Mental Health Services

Proudly serving the GLBT community's mental health counseling needs at three convenient Twin Cities locations.
2060 Centre Pointe Blvd., Ste. 3
St. Paul, MN 55120
(651) 635-0095
www.peopleincorporated.org

MUSEUM

Minnesota Historical Society Sites & Museums

Make the Minnesota Historical Society's 26 historic sites and museums part of your vacation plans. Like Split Rock Lighthouse, Mill City Museum, Minnesota History Center, Northwest Company Fur Post, James J. Hill House and Historic Fort Snelling. They're located all around the state. Learn more at
www.visitMNhistory.org

Science Museum of Minnesota

Welcomes you to Social Science, a bi-monthly event for adults only!
120 W. Kellogg Blvd
St. Paul, MN
(651) 221-2547
www.smm.org/socialscience

Weisman Art Museum

Art is everywhere. You just need to know where to look. Expand your vision. Free admission.
333 E. River Rd.
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 625-9494
www.wam.umn.edu

PERFORMING ARTS

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2400 3rd Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 874-0400
www.childrenstheatre.org

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1-800-982-2787
www.HennepinTheatreTrust.org

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30 E. 10th St.
St. Paul, MN
(651) 292-4323
www.HistoryTheatre.com

Illusion Theater

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(612) 339-4944
www.illusiontheater.org

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(612) 822-7063
www.JungleTheater.com

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1111 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 371-5656
(800) 292-4141
www.minnesotaorchestra.org

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Minneapolis, MN
(612) 656-5676
www.mnphil.org

Mixed Blood Theatre

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1501 S. 4th St.
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 338-0937
www.mixedblood.com

Northrop - University of Minnesota

A legacy of presenting diverse world-class dance and music artists.
(612) 625-6600
northrop.umn.edu

Ordway Center for the Performing Arts

Hosting, presenting, and creating performing arts and educational programs that enrich diverse audiences.

345 Washington St.
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(651) 224-4222
www.ordway.org

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(651) 291-7005
www.parksquaretheatre.org

Theater Latté Da

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Minneapolis, MN
(612) 339-3003
www.latteda.org

Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus

An award-winning chorus that builds community through music and offers entertainment worth coming out for! 528 Hennepin Ave., Suite 307
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 339-SONG (7664)
chorus@tcgmc.org
www.tcgmc.org

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Animal Humane Society

Adoption, rescue, outreach, training, boarding. Buffalo, Coon Rapids, Golden Valley, St. Paul and Woodbury.
(763) 522-4325
www.animalhumanesociety.org

Greyhound Pets of America-Minnesota

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info@gpa-mn.org
www.gpa-mn.org

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www.nlga-mn.org

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Human Rights Campaign

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P.O. Box 50608
Minneapolis, MN
www.twincities.hrc.org
www.hrc.org

OutFront Minnesota

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Minneapolis, MN
(612) 822-0127
www.outfront.org

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Edina, MN
(952) 926-3808
www.eclc.org

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www.hohchurch.org

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www.mayflowermpls.org

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A Beacon of Liberal Theology. Progressive Christianity, Traditional Setting & Service, Social Action, The Arts & Music.

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(612) 871-7400
www.plymouth.org

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www.richfieldumc.org

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www.ourcathedral.org

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(651) 224-3371
www.stpaulref.org

United Methodist Reconciling Churches

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www.mnrcumc.org

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www.unitedseminary.edu

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and Just as God's Grace.
Nicollet Mall at 12th St.
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 332-3421
www.ewestminster.org

SENIORS/ELDERS

Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly

Volunteer-based nonprofit organization committed to providing companionship for isolated seniors in the Twin Cities area.

1845 E. Lake St.
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 721-6215
www.littlebrothersmn.org

Prime Timers - MSP

Providing gay and bi men opportunities to come together for social, educational and recreational activities.

1730 New Brighton Blvd., PMB 162
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 371-9537
www.primetimerswww.org/ptmsp/

SPORTS & RECREATION

Twin Cities Goodtime Softball League (TCGSL)

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P.O. Box 580264
Minneapolis, MN
www.tcgsl.org

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www.mnzoo.org



43 Ways To Surprise A Stranger

This issue, Lavender celebrates readers' favorite people, groups, and organizations. So, here are 43 ways to make a stranger smile.

1. Write a love letter and leave it in a library book.
2. Give a rose to someone talking on a cell phone.
3. Ask a kid for an autograph.
4. Casually read a giant treasure map.
5. Say, "I'm from out of town. Are you Garison Keillor?"
6. Ask someone on a bus to play Patty Cake.
7. Chew a piece of gum, throw your head back, laugh, and shout, "Damn I love bubblegum!"
8. Carry around a giant clock and tell everyone that you are very, VERY late.
9. Argue with a friend at a restaurant, pound the table and scream, "Where the HELL is Waldo?"
10. Pass a "check yes or no" note to a stranger, then blush and giggle.
11. Stand beside someone on the same escalator step.
12. Say, "I'll miss you," to someone leaving an elevator.
13. Ask to borrow a stranger's car.
14. Give \$10 to a stranger and say, "Good job."
15. Touch a stranger's shoulder, scream "You're it!" and run away.
16. Answer a phone call and tell a someone it's for them.
17. Pass out fliers with random compliments written on them.
18. Pay for someone's meal at a restaurant. Anonymously.
19. Play with Play-Doh. Invite others to join.
20. Approach a stranger and ask to be their friend.
21. Walk through the skyways singing "Holding Out for a Hero."
22. Tip a librarian.
23. Tell someone that they're really beautiful.
24. Hug a stranger and tell them you haven't seen them in years.
25. Ask someone at a bar if they want a drink. Tell them you want one, too.
26. Stand outside an apartment building and welcome people home.
27. Open up a lemonade stand.
28. Sing the Golden Girls theme song with friends at a restaurant.
29. Ask to borrow a stranger's shoes.
30. Read a dictionary on a plane and recommend it to the passenger next to you.
31. Wear a Snuggie. Anywhere.
32. Turn to someone and say, "You've known me since the beginning of this sentence."
33. Quote Dr. Seuss.
34. Give a stranger a birthday present and tell them you're sorry it's late.
35. Interrupt someone reading a book and ask if you could borrow it.
36. Ask someone to tell you a bedtime story.
37. Listen to your iPod, move your head to the beat, and sing the alphabet.
38. Send a stranger a singing telegram.
39. Ask someone to prove it.
40. Tell someone you want Nutella.
41. Wear glasses and studiously take notes while reading the back of a Disney VHS.
42. Ask someone for the Answer to Life, the Universe, and Everything.
43. Smile. ▣



THERE'S NO NEIGHBOR LIKE A MINNESOTAN

From small gestures like helping a neighbor paint a fence to a rich tradition of civic engagement and charitable giving, Minnesotans show a remarkable generosity of spirit. Minnesota Community Foundation helps people across the state turn that generosity into real impact. We help make the best neighbors in the world even better by providing the tools and counsel to make the most of their charitable giving. Visit mncommunityfoundation.org to learn how to establish a fund today.



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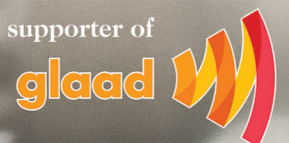
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